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REMARKS

This amendment is presented along with a Request for Continued Examination in this case. Examiner Swiger is respectfully requested to enter these amendments and reconsider the claims.

With respect to claims 44-58, which were previously pending in this case, Examiner Swiger is requested to reconsider them in light of previous arguments made in this case. In particular, it is submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art, reading the cited references without the benefit of the current specification, would not understand their parts characterized in previous Office Actions as "grooves" to be such. The Advisory Action asserts that the Sherman reference "has a groove at least at the intersection of the upper portion of the receiving member and where it begins to taper below" which forms "at least a 'depression' between the two sections (36 in Fig. 2)." Respectfully, at that point in the device of the Sherman reference there is no indentation, channel, or anything else that one of ordinary skill in this art would consider a "groove." At best, point 36 in Sherman could be considered a transition from an upper opening part to a lower opening part, but neither part alone nor both of them together can be seen to form a groove as in the claims. The Advisory Action also asserts that the Morrison reference also has a groove "at least at 36." The number 36 indicates a tapered wall in the Morrison reference that secures the tapered washer in a taper-lock relationship. There is no indentation in the wall in Morrison. Respectfully, one of ordinary skill who does not have knowledge of the current specification could not conclude that either reference has the groove in the claims.

In addition, amendments are being made to claims 44 and 53 to clarify certain parts. Neither the Morrison reference nor the Sherman reference show the lower opening portion or the

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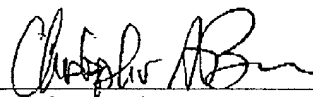
retaining member as claimed and disclosed, among other places, in Figures 3C-3D and 7 and associated text. No new matter has been added.

New claims 69-76 are being offered. The subject matter of these claims is supported throughout the application, but particularly in Figure 7 and the text relating to it (e.g. paragraph 0032) and to the retaining member and the anchor shown in it. No new matter has been added. The new claims are allowable over the cited references at least because the "limiting surfaces" of claim 69 and the "groove diameter" of claim 73 is not shown in the cited references.

It should be understood that the above remarks are not intended to provide an exhaustive basis for patentability or concede the basis for previous rejections. Applicants reserve the right to contest later positions taken by the Examiner that are not specifically addressed herein. None of the arguments made herein are intended to limit the literal or equivalent scope of the claims.

In conclusion, because the claims in this case are allowable over the references relied on in the pending Office Action for at least the above reasons, a Notice of Allowance in this case is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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